

Quality Standards for Students Placement – Q-PlaNet Approach

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Abstract

Higher education is no longer a solely guarantee of a successful career. At least not in a narrow meaning. Universities are broadening their offer in order to increase the employability of the graduates. The collaboration between Universities and economic and social environment is becoming a compulsory need for Higher Education institutions. Scientific literature opened through theory and research toward understanding how learning may be supported in order to adjust formal education to work field requirements. Practical placement combines methods of learning that may enhance the preparation of students for a globalize work market. Even though the importance of practical placement is more and more acknowledged, there is still not enough coherence and efficacy in organizing and valorizing this activity. Q-PlaNet project's aim is to set a standard in measuring quality of trans-national placements for students. As a mean of making that possible there were established innovative structures named Quality Reference Centres (QRC) that have the task to check quality of placements and to label company that comply with the quality criteria as well as to support higher education-company cooperation. The QRC's function at a regional level and are responsible to check organizations from their region. Through of a network of QRC transnational students placement is maintain at quality standards. The standards include requirements for all parties involved: the University, the student and the host organization and include guidelines for resources, processes and procedures, quality control being in the center of partnership.

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